

An underwater photograph showing a large group of seals swimming in the water. The seals are of various sizes and are distributed throughout the frame, some swimming towards the camera and others away from it. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the lighting is somewhat dim, creating a serene and naturalistic atmosphere. The seals' bodies are sleek and dark, with some lighter patches visible on their heads and flippers.

North Pacific Universities Marine Mammal Research Consortium

Projects 56, 60, 61, 65, 67, 70, 74 & 75



Timing of Molt

Raychelle Daniel & Andrew Trites

University of BC

2001-56

- Document progression and timing
- Effect on haulout behavior
- Determine physiological factors that influence timing

Molt

Forrester Island
Vancouver Aq.



Trends in Diet & Population of SSLs in Oregon

David Sampson

Robin Brown

Oregon State University

2001-60

- Distribution, abundance & trend (1976-2000)
- Describe diet from scats
- Develop ecosystem model
 - System of differential equations describing biomass dynamics
 - SSLs (juvenile & adults)
 - Major fish species
 - Major prey species

Population Dynamics of SSLs in Oregon vs Alaska

David Sampson
Oregon State University
2001-74

- Compare the dynamics of Oregon with Aleutians
- Parameterize Oregon ecosystem model with Aleutian Islands data
- Address hypothesis that prey availability caused SSL decline in Aleutians

Monitoring Demographics & Diet of SSLs in Washington

Steve Jeffries

John Calambokidis

Glenn VanBlaricom

University of Washington

2001-61

- Numbers off SSLs at haulouts
- Seasonal trends & age structure
- At-Sea distribution
- Food habits at haulouts



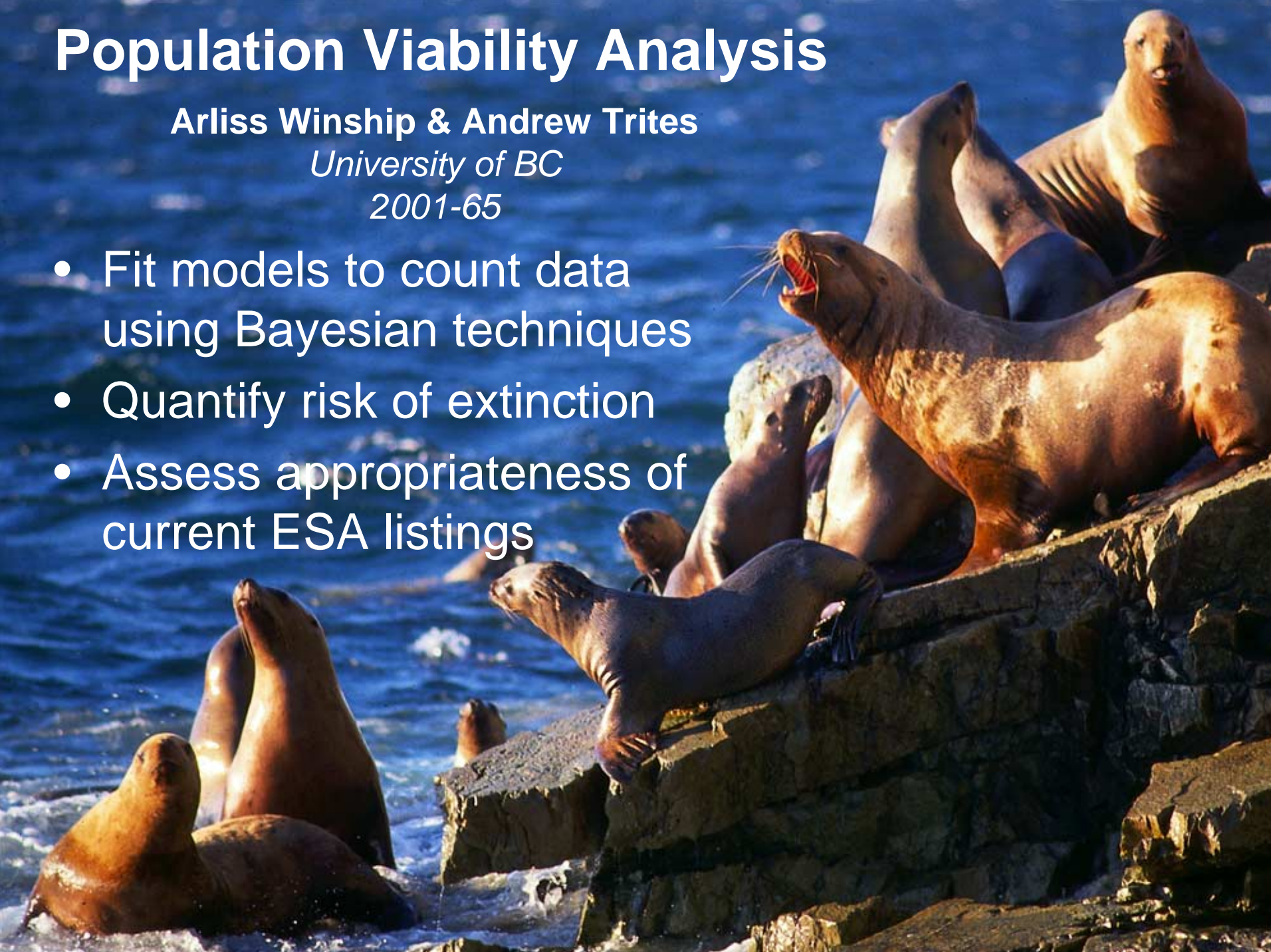
Population Viability Analysis

Arliss Winship & Andrew Trites

University of BC

2001-65

- Fit models to count data using Bayesian techniques
- Quantify risk of extinction
- Assess appropriateness of current ESA listings



Review of Nutritional Stress Hypothesis in Seabirds & Steller Sea Lions

Daniel Roby
Oregon State University
2001-67



- Appear to be parallels between some sea bird declines & Steller sea lions
- Review effect of nutrition & diet on breeding biology and population dynamics of sea birds & marine mammals

Leptin, Reproductive Cycles & Energy Balance in SSLs

Saeko Kumagai
David Rosen
University of BC
2001-70

- Leptin: hormone that regulates food intake & energy balance (humans & rodents)
- Determine if relationship between leptin, energy intake, body condition & reproductive cycle
- Captive study
 - 7 females
 - Periodic fasting over 1 year



Assessing Physiological Stress Using Fecal Hormones

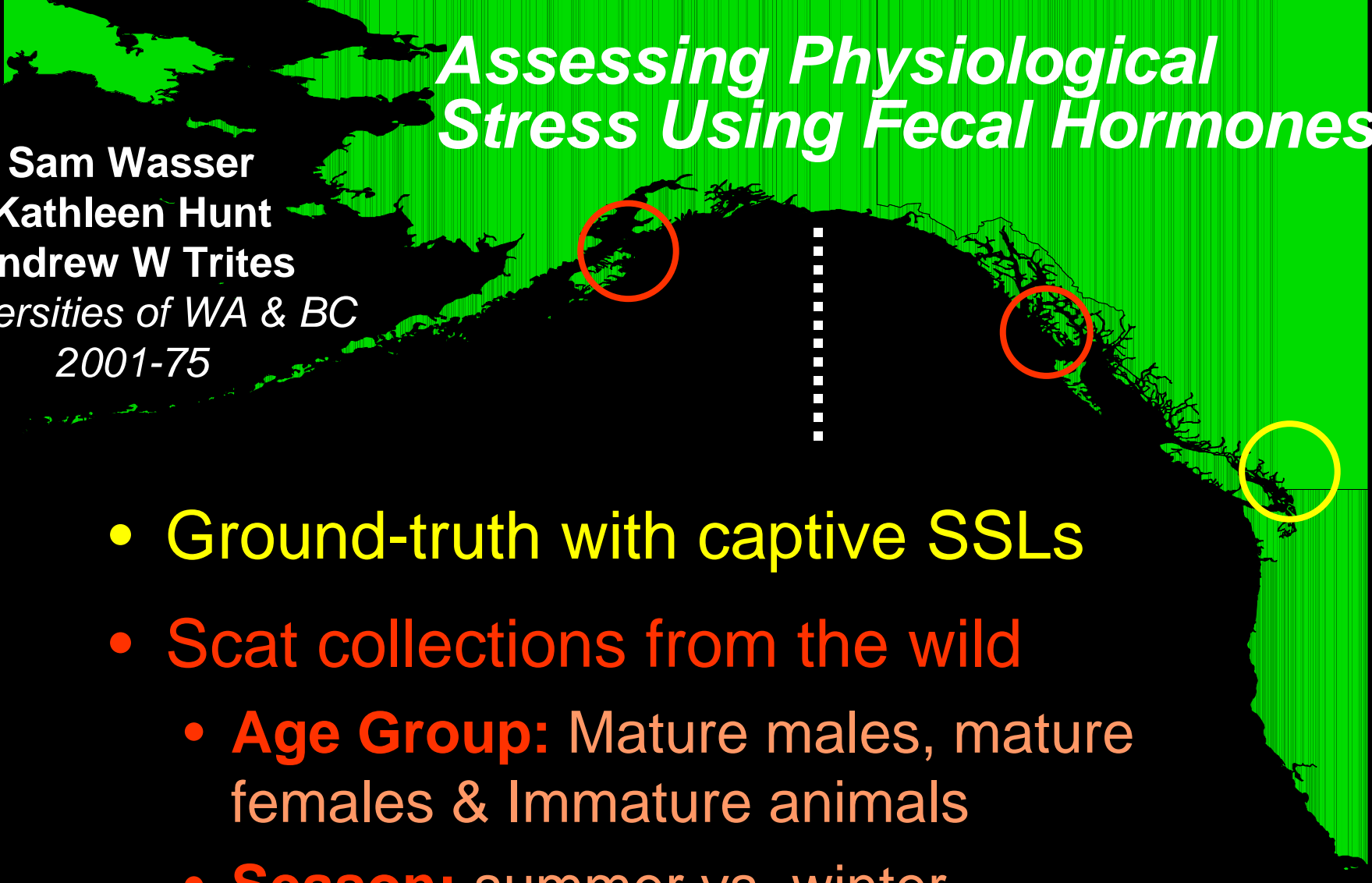
Sam Wasser

Kathleen Hunt

Andrew W Trites

Universities of WA & BC

2001-75

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- Ground-truth with captive SSLs
 - Scat collections from the wild
 - **Age Group:** Mature males, mature females & Immature animals
 - **Season:** summer vs. winter
 - **Region:** declining vs. increasing

www.marinemammal.org

